

WE CLAIM:

1. A method of messaging during an active half-duplex session between a plurality of user devices capable of walkie-talkie-like functionality, the method comprising:

5 a first user device of said plurality of user devices while in a receiving in half-duplex (RHD) mode for an active half-duplex session, transmitting a transmit channel request message (TCRM) to a network;

the network forwarding the TCRM to a second user
10 device of said plurality of user devices while the second user device is in a transmitting in half-duplex (THD) mode for the active half-duplex session; and

the second user device receiving the TCRM.

2. A method according to claim 1 wherein each user
15 device of the plurality of user devices is a wireless device.

3. A method according to claim 2 further comprising the first user device locally receiving a request to transmit the TCRM.

20 4. A method according to claim 2 wherein the half-duplex session is a voice communication session compliant with at least one system selected from the group of iDEN™, 1XRTT CDMA, GSM/GPRS, UMTS, and TDMA.

5. A method according to claim 2 further comprising
25 including an identification of the first user device in the TCRM at least when the TCRM is forwarded to the second user device.

6. A method according to claim 2 further comprising:

the second user device in response to receiving the TCRM generating a user-detectable notification indicating the second user device has received the TCRM.

7. A method according to claim 5 further comprising:

5 the second user device generating user-detectable notification indicative of the identification of the first user device.

8. A method according to claim 2 further comprising:

10 the network, upon receiving the TCRM from the first user device, determining a talk group the first user device is participating in, determining another user device in the talk group that is in THD mode, which another user device is said second user device.

9. A method according to claim 5 further comprising
15 including a qualifier flag in the TCRM at least when the TCRM is forwarded to the second user device.

10. A method according to claim 9 further comprising performing extended functionality in response to a value of the qualifier flag.

20 11. A method according to claim 10 wherein the extended functionality comprises at least one functionality selected from the group consisting of:

a) registering a continuing transmit channel request at the THD device;

25 b) canceling a transmit channel request at the THD device; and

c) performing automatic release of the transmit channel by the THD device.

12. A user device capable of walkie-talkie-like functionality adapted to participate in an active half-duplex session, the user device comprising:

means for receiving an external input requesting
5 the user device to transmit an outgoing TCRM message;

means for transmitting the outgoing TCRM to a wireless network responsive to the request;

means for receiving an incoming TCRM message from the wireless network while the user device is in transmit
10 half-duplex mode; and

means for generating a user-detectable notification in response to receiving the incoming TCRM message.

13. A user device according to claim 12 wherein the
15 user device is a wireless device.

14. A user device according to claim 13 wherein the active half-duplex session is a push-to-talk™ half-duplex voice communication session.

15. A user device according to claim 13 wherein the
20 received TCRM comprises an identification of another user device which originally sent the received TCRM and wherein the notification comprises the identification.

16. A user device according to claim 13 wherein the outgoing TCRM comprises an identification of the user
25 device.

17. A user device according to claim 13 wherein the incoming TCRM comprises a qualifier flag, and wherein the

user device is adapted to perform extended functionality in response to a value of the qualifier flag of the TCRM.

18. A user device according to claim 17 wherein the extended functionality performed in response to a value of the qualifier flag of the TCRM comprises at least one functionality selected from the group consisting of:

a) registering a continuing transmit channel request;

b) canceling a previously received transmit channel request; and

c) performing automatic release of the transmit channel.

19. A user device according to claim 13 wherein the outgoing TCRM comprises a qualifier flag, and wherein the value of the qualifier flag of the TCRM is indicative of a request for the performance of extended functionality.

20. A user device according to claim 19 wherein the request for the performance of extended functionality indicated by the TCRM comprises at least one functionality selected from the group consisting of:

a) registering a continuing transmit channel request at the THD device;

b) canceling a previously received transmit channel request at the THD device; and

c) performing automatic release of the transmit channel by the THD device.

21. A network adapted to facilitate an active half-duplex session involving an RHD device capable of

walkie-talkie-like functionality and a THD device capable of walkie-talkie-like functionality, the network comprising:

a message processing element adapted to forward a TCRM from the RHD device to the THD device by:

5 i) receiving the TCRM over an input channel from the RHD device;

ii) processing the TCRM to identify from the TCRM the identity of the THD device; and

10 iii) transmitting the TCRM over an output channel to the THD device.

22. A system comprising at least one user device according to claim 13 in combination with:

a network adapted to facilitate an active half-duplex session, the network comprising:

15 a message forwarding element for forwarding a TCRM received from an RHD device capable of walkie-talkie-like functionality to a THD device capable of walkie-talkie-like functionality.

20 23. A system comprising at least one device according to claim 15 in combination with:

a network adapted to facilitate an active half-duplex session, the network comprising:

25 a message forwarding element for forwarding a TCRM received from an RHD device capable of walkie-talkie-like functionality to a THD device capable of walkie-talkie-like functionality.

24. A memory for storing data for access by a THD device of a network, comprising:

a data structure stored in said memory, said data structure being a TCRM and comprising an identification of
5 an RHD device.